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But of this tree we may not taste nor touch;
God so commanded, and left that command
Sole daughter of his voice.

Wordsworth's reverence for Milton and familiarity with his works are well known. It is possible that he may not have recalled at the time this expression of Eve's, in giving duty, awakened by conscience, as the reason for her refusal to partake of the forbidden fruit. But the similarity is so apparent that it is difficult to escape the conclusion that, whether he was conscious of it or not, this speech of Eve suggested to the poet the first line of his great ode.

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A PARALLEL IN LITERARY BIOGRAPHY

John Keats and Joseph Rodman Drake naturally do not suggest each other; one is a noted English poet, the other a somewhat forgotten writer of American verse. A close examination, however, of the lives of these two men reveals a similarity in several details which furnishes a striking literary coincidence.

Keats was born in 1795 and died in 1821. Drake was born in 1795 and died in 1820. Both poets, in their early years, were familiar with poverty. Both of them were poets from childhood. Keats was a licensed surgeon before he engaged in poetical composition as his professional work. Drake graduated in medicine before he wrote any of his best-known pieces, including *The American Flag*. Keats contracted consumption and went to Italy in search of health. Drake developed the same disease and visited Louisiana in the hope of driving off what his friend Halleck called "consumption's ghastly form." Both men failed in the fight for life.

Although there is nothing in the works of these two poets, aside from the romantic spirit, to constitute a literary parallel, either by accident or influence, the biographical facts nevertheless record two pathetic life-histories being worked out at almost exactly the same time on opposite sides of the Atlantic. Just as we speculate about the work Keats might have done in later life, we may wonder what Drake's full contribution to American poetry would have been had he not gone the way of Adonais himself.

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